the Indian airspace by AK-26 aircraft for dropping arms and ammunition over Purulia, Government have reviewed the existing airspace security system at the airports to strengthen the system; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

The MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRIGHULAM BNABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have appointed a Committee headed by Shri V.K. Jain, Special Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs to suggest measures for preventing misutilisation of the permits for chartered flights. The recommendations of the Committee, as approved by the Government, are being strictly followed.

Increased defence cooperation with USA

786. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the defence cooperation between India and the USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

The MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND THE DEPTT. OF DEFENCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Government are pursuing a policy of establishing and enhancing cooperation in the defence sector with various countries, including the USA. During the visit of US Defence Secretary to India in January, 1995 an 'Agreed Minute' on defence relations between India and the USA was signed. It provides for civilian-to-civilian interaction, service-to-service cooperation, and cooperation in the filed of research and development.

Disturbance by Pak on Borders

787. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan, in its desperate bid to dusrupt the process of normalisation and elections in Jammu and Kashmir, has lately hotted up the borders and Line of Control along that State, by mounting military pressure, violation of borders by way of firing across and pushing in infiltrator-militants;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents that have come to notice of Government during the last four months; and

(c) the number of militants apprehended/killed and details of weapons seized or surrendered and the militant hide-outs smashed?

The MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) AND (B) Unprovoked firing across the line of control (LC) and International Border (IB) by Pakistani troops has been a recurring phenomenon over the years. However during the last four months, there has been an appreciable escalation of firing along the IB in Jammu & Kashmir as compared to same period in 1994/95. There has also been an incident of firing of *rockets* from across the border/LOC in Poonch sector on 26.1.96. Details of firing by Pakistani troops across the border/LOC during the last four months are as under:—

Month	No. of incidents of firing along the Border/LOC
Nov. 1995	227
Dec. 1995	255
Jan. 1996	218
Feb. 1996	200